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THE
HISTORY

OF THE
Kentish Petition,

ANSWER'D
PARAGRAPH by PARAGRAPH:

WHEREIN

The Anti - Parliamentary Faction are Discover'd; Their Ill Design Detected; And their Abuses offer'd to the Publick are Exposed;

*For the General Satisfaction of all true Lovers
of their COUNTRY.*

L O N D O N:

Printed in the Year MDCCCI.

HISTORY

OF THE

Revolution

AND

THE

CONSTITUTION

OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FROM 1776 TO 1789
BY
JAMES M. SMITH

NEW YORK: PUBLISHED BY
J. B. LIPPINCOTT & CO., 15 N. 2ND ST.
1889

Printed in the Year MDCCLXXXIX

ANIMADVERSIONS

U P O N

A Scurrilous Pamphlet,

ENTITUL'D,

The History of the Kentish PETITION.

The P R E F A C E.

H I S T O R Y.

TWould be hard to suspect him of Errors in Fact, who writes the Story of Yesterday: A Historian of three Weeks must needs be Just; for had he never so much mind to Lye, 'twould be Nonsense to expect the World could be impos'd upon, every Bodies Memory would be a living Witness against him, and the effect would be only to expose himself.

A N I M A D V E R S I O N.

When a Modern *Whig* pleads with all his might to gain Belief of what he is about to deliver, 'tis an Infallible Sign he has Conceived; is in Labour of a *Rapper*, and wants the Man-midwifery of an *Apology* to impose it upon the Credulous, like Gilding a Pill to cover a Nauseous Composition, and Painting a Face that in its native Hue would affright the stoutest Hero. Sure our Triobolary Historian is but a *Puny* in the Party; and neither knows his Men nor the Maxims they are Govern'd by, or he would not make a Wonder of their *Common Practice*! What? Not suspect a *Historian of Yesterday*? Yes in half an Hour, if a Modern *Whig* be Author of the Narrative,

tive, who can never be believed over the *Door-threshold*. A *Historian of three Weeks*, if it be his Principle, and his Cause stands in need of it, will Lye Dagger out of Sheath, as notoriously as if he had wrote a Thousand Years before the Flood, and 'twould be Nonsense for any unprejudic'd Man to imagine, that the Modern Whigs carry on their Designs by any other Methods; for tho' they are sensible they expose themselves by imposing upon the World, yet their Effronteries and despicable Characters, always purchase them Indemnity; for the more egregiously they *Prevaricate* and *Romance*, the Truer they are to the Spirit of the Party.

Hist.] *Other Historians*, he says, *Apologize for their Quotations*, but this Author is not afraid to let the World know, that he is so sure every thing related in this Account is literally and positively True, that he challenges all the Wit and Malice the World abounds with, to confute the most trifling Circumstance.

Animad.] That our Author is under a gross Mistake, as to the Truth of his Narrative will appear by and by, when I shall take him by the Bridle and shew him to the Sun, as *Alexander* did *Bucephalus*; and if he is not *Afraid* of being confuted, he might be *Asham'd* of giving so much occasion for being severely *Chastiz'd*, since almost in every Page of his Impotent *Libel* against the Proceedings of the Honourable House of Commons, in the Case of the five Kentish Petitioners, he has forfeited his Wit and his Understanding, as well as his Good Manners.

Hist.] If *Aggravations* are omitted, and some very ill-natur'd Passages let go without Observations, those Persons who were guilty of them, may observe, that we have more good Nature than they have Manners; and they ought to acknowledge it, since a great many Rudenesses both against the King himself and the Gentlemen concern'd, have escap'd their *Scurrilous Mouths*, which are not here animadverted upon.

Animad.] Now our Pen-feather'd Author begins to shew what Party he belongs to, and, as an Instance of his Truth, flaps you o're the Mouth with a Roggor: That a great many Rudenesses have been offer'd to the King in the House of Commons, which was impossible to be done, without the House's shewing their Resentments at such a High Misdemeanor: And, as a Specimen of his good Manners, says, the House of Commons are Men of *Scurrilous Mouths*. Certainly this will be a Hopeful Sprig in time, that so exactly follows the Advice of the Biting Satyrist, in his first Attempt.

Aude

Aude aliquid brevibus Gyaris, & Carcere dignum

Si vis esse aliquis ———

Because a Figure he'l i'th Kingdom make,
By Punishable Crimes the Way to't takes.

Hist.] *And lest the World should think this Presumptive, and that the Accusation is only a Surmise, we will Query what they think of that kind Remark of Mr. John H--w, finding the King's Letter to the House, and the Kentish Petition to come both of a Day, and the Substance to be the same: That the King, the Dutch, and the Kentish-Men, were all in a Plot against the House of Commons.*

Animad.] If Mr. How were not known to be a very good Man, and an unfeigned Lover of his Country, this only Argument would prove it beyond Dispute, *That so many ill Men take all Occasions to spit their Venom at him. The Legion accus'd him with saying, The King has made a fellonious Treaty: Where-as Mr. How's Words were, They have made a fellonious Treaty,* meaning the Persons Impeached. Being now ashamed of that malicious Perversion of his Words, they have raked up a new Story against him, altogether as ridiculous and false as the former; and I challenge our Author at the Peril of his Honesty to Prove it, or Recant it, before it be too late to procure his Pardon; for let him know a Day of Judgment is coming.

Hist.] *I could have swell'd this Pamphlet to a large Volume, if I should pretend to collect all the Billingsgate Language of a certain House full of Men against the King, the Lords and the Kentish-Men; but 'tis a siter Subject for a Satyr than a History, they have abused the Nation, and now are become a Bante: upon themselves; and I leave them to consider of it, and reform.*

Animad.] You have already seen the Man, and now I come to shew you his Designs in Concert with the whole Party, and that in short is, to create a Misunderstanding between the King, Lords and Commons, as the only Way left them to ruin the Kingdom, in hopes of sharing in the Spoil; for this end the very same Faction that sometime made it their Business to represent his Majesty as not in the Interest of his People, now employ all their little Arts to persuade the King, that this Parliament are not well affected to his Service, that they curtail his Prerogative and weaken his Hands, by not keeping up a standing Army, and a thousand such Good-morrows. By

the same Artifices they suggest that the Commons encroach upon the Jurisdiction of the Lords, and at other times say the Lords would take away the Right of the Commons: When 'tis known to all the World, the Persons that set up these Pretences to create Differences, are the only Persons that hate both King, Lords and Commons, and seek the Destruction of our Constitution, in order to play an *After-game* of their own. See with what a Stock of Assurance, this *Pamphleteer* treats the Honourable House of Commons; calling them a *House full of Men that treat the King, the Lords, and the Gentlemen of Kent, with Billingsgate Language*. Some of the Anti-parliamentary Incendiaries have been more modest, and laid the whole Charge only upon some particular Members of the Honourable House of Commons; but this insolent Author says they were a *House full of Men* that committed these pretended Enormities. And here I cannot but observe the Pride and Vanity, as well as the Falseness of our Doughty Author, that he always ranks the Kentish-Men with the King and the Lords, a very familiar if not a sawcy way of talking, for by his Pardon, such Comparisons always throw Contempt upon the Persons that assume such an undecent Familiarity: Nay, whenever he talks of the House of Commons, 'tis with Indignation and Reproach, plain *Men* at the best, as if he was talking of the *Mercers Chappel-men*; but when he mentions the Petitioners, he calls them *Kentish-Gentlemen*. Nor does he forget to call himself a *Historian*, tho' he merits that Character by no other Figure, than that by which a *Scotch-Pedlar* is called a *Merchant*, or the celebrated Bean-bellies the *wise Men of Gotham*: And so has banter'd himself by being too Presumptive.

Hist.] *I assure the World I am no Kentish-man, nor was my Hand to the Petition: Tho' had I been acquainted with it, I would have gone a Hundred Miles to have sign'd it, and a Hundred more to have had an opportunity of serving my Country at the expence of an unjust Confinement for it.*

Animad.] I see by our Author's sheltering himself under *Negatives*, he is resolved to act safely; for to have told us *what he is* would have been a Task beyond his Abilities and inconsistent with his Prudence; for then we should have known the Man that has render'd himself so Cheap by his repeated Follies and Arrogancy, and in time we might have known where to find him also. Well, but he is no Man of *Kent*; and truly,
by

by the Effects of his Brutish Carriage towards his Superiors, he should be no Man of Christendom neither; unless he had his Education in *Lithuania*, where a Historian tells us there is an *Accademy* erected for the Education of *Bears* and other *Savage Animals*. From What our Author is not, he proceeds to tell you what he fain would be, *viz.* one of that Number that Sign'd the Kentish Petition, and in pursuit of that *Glory*, Rhodomontades so ridiculously; that he looks like *Don Quixot* encountring the *Wind-mills*, and will be as miserably maul'd too e're long by his own *Whimsies* returning too quick upon him; for in his two hundred Miles Knight-errantry to seek Adventures, he has neither Beaten the *Giant* nor Won the *Lady*, but is fallen under an equal Censure with *Waltham's* Wife Animal, that trudg'd it but Nine Miles on as sleeveless an Errand. But put all his Boasting apart, it savours too much of Hypocrisie to gain Credit, since putting his Name to the *Libel* he calls a *History* would have been an Equivalent: And if he is fond of a *Goal*, he is unfit to be *Patriot*; for he that is so willing to lose his own Liberty for a *Senseless Chimera*, ought not be trusted with the Liberties of his Country.

Hist.] *It may be fairly concluded I am no Warwickshire-man, neither, with a Petition in my Pocket, brought a hundred Miles and afraid to deliver it.*

Animad.] But e'en now our Parliament Reviler told us he was extreamly Good-natur'd, which by the way is as Rare in a Modern *Whig* as Conscience in a *Stock-Jobber*: And now discovers that the very Essence of Ill-nature reigns in him, in flouting at the *Warwickshire-Petition-Porters*, that kept the Paper under Confinement in their Pockets, rather than hazard the loss of their Liberties by delivering it against the Approbation of their Representatives; for it looks like being infected with the Plague of Sedition himself, and grieving that he cannot Communicate it to the rest of his Neighbours, than which, it seems there was more Good-nature to be found among the Damn'd in Hell, who desir'd their equally Vicious Brethren, might not come into that Place of Torment.

Hist.] *Nor my Name Sir Robert Clayton, by which you may know, that I did not promise the Members, who were then in fear enough, to use my Interest to stifle a City Petition.*

Animad.] If Sir Robert Clayton did prevent the Designs of the Anti-parliamentary Faction, in stifling a scandalous Petition,
let

let it be recorded to his Glory, and as an Obligation upon that numerous and wise Body, who otherwise through Inadvertency when the Noise was up, might have run into Mistakes: And if Sir Robert had done the like Kindness for our Author, in committing his History to the Flames before it stole abroad to corrupt the Unintelligent, I assure you he had done our Historian Knights-service, as well as saved the Sheriff of *Middlesex* the Charge of buying Faggots for the future.

Hist.] *Nor is my Name Legion, I wish it were, for I should have been glad to be capable of speaking so much Truth, and so much to the Purpose, as is contain'd in that unanswerable Paper.*

Animad.] What a Clutter does our Author make about a Name, was he never christen'd, or is it so long since, and he so young when 'twas given him, he has forgot it? If so, Let him look into the Dialogue between *Whig-love* and *Double*; and he may find many, as fit as if they had been bespoke and made on purpose for him; and till he has made his Election, you may, if you please, call him the *Tongue* or *Buckle* to an *Under-Spur-Leather*; for certainly he is in great Want of a Name, or he would never be ambitious to be call'd *Legion*; a Name given to a Pack of *Resty Devils*, that would not be confin'd within the Compass of their own dismal Shades, but must, *Vi aut Armis*, range abroad to possess and abuse the weaker sort of Mortals; for otherwise, as *Legion* signifies *Many*, it cannot relate to him or his Party, for their Numbers, tho' mischievous, are very inconsiderable, and will every Day be less and less, as their Designs are known, and the Nation grows wiser. He calls the *Legion* an unanswerable Paper, tho' he knows there are six Answers to it already, and by this Time there would have been sixteen, if any of the Faction durst have reply'd to 'em; but this Flight is another Instance of his Veracity.

Hist.] *But I am an unconcerned Spectator, and have been an exact Observer of every Passage, have been an Eye and Ear-Witness of every most minute Article, and am sure that every thing related is as exactly true, as the Causes of it are scandalous and burthensome to the Nation.*

Animad.] What a pretty fanciful Way of Writing our modern Whigs have, which, under the Rose and betwixt you and I Reader, is scarce to be distinguished from down-right Nonsense; for how can an unconcerned Spectator be an exact Observer, since where Interest is absent, the Concern will be slight,

flight, and but *in transiū*, as appears through his whole partial Narrative. Besides how does his being an Eye and an Ear Witness in the most minute Particular agree with his sorrowful Complaint of wanting an Opportunity to sign the Petition ; unless his Eyes and his Ears were at *Maidstone in Kent*, but unadvisedly he had left his Hands behind him at *London*.

————— *Ridentem dicere verum*

Quis vetat ? —————

Must we take all for Truth that he avouches upon his own single Authority ? 'Tis all a Jest to think after so long Experience of their Practices, any Body will regard what he says ; for to hear a *Modern Whig* talk of *Truth*, is as ridiculous as to hear your Physician say he is glad to see you in Health, or a Goaler congratulate your being at Liberty. See also what an exploded Shift he employs to secure himself from being detected, and that is to prove Negatives and *disprove* his Assertions, which he knows is impossible ! So have I seen a Printed Paper some Years since, that might have been called a *History* too, that confidently told, that a *Hen* at *Bedminster*, near *Bristol*, *Lay'd a Cat*, and offer'd ten Guinea's to any Body that could *disprove* it : Our Author would be safe in the Tender of such another Gratuity.

Hist.] *As to the Gentlemen of the House of Commons, I shall not pretend to enter into their Character, because I care not to enter into Captivity, nor come into the Clutches of that worst of Brutes their Serjeant.*

Animad.] 'Tis the Fate of great Wits, and great ——— to want good Memories. He is so modest now, to say he will not enter into the Character of the House of Commons ; and yet in his 4th and 5th Paragraphs has given them a very unmannerly one, in saying they were a *House full of Men*, that gave *Billingsgate* Language to the King, the Lords, and, which was more Rude than all the Rest, even to the Kentish Gentlemen : *Mendacium Memorem esse oportet*. How does our Author tumble in palpable Contradictions, and run Divisions like a Ram in a Halter : He Will and he Will not, that he may conform to the Practice of the Heads of his Party and *take a Body's Money for Nothing*. As to Mr. *Serjeant*, we will talk with him anon. But I had like to have forgot the reason why he will not be

so kind as to give the House of Commons their Character, and that is because he is unwilling to enter into Captivity; certainly our Author is playing the Game *Hide and Seek*, Whoop, are you all *Hide*? For no body can tell where to find him! But five Paragraphs before he solicitously courted the Honour of *Serving his Country at the Expence of an unjust Confinement for it*; but now his Country may Sink or Swim, 'tis all one to Pill-Garlick, he will wear a Stone-doublet for no body's Pleasure; there's a great deal of difference between talking against a House of Commons under the hopes of a *Dissolution* and the expectation of its Continuance. *Tempora mutantur & nos mutamur in illis*. Our Man of Courage has chang'd his Resolution, and in truth *does not care to enter into Captivity*. There is nothing so crouching as a Modern Whig, if you can once find the means to make him afraid: Take away their Insolence, you take away their Courage, and then they make but one Leap from the greatest Huff of Pride into the basest Cowardize.

Hist.] Literally speaking, no Member of the House of Commons can be a Jacobite, because they have taken the Oaths to King William. But this may be observed, that the Jacobites in England are generally the only People who approve of their Proceedings, and applaud their Measures; and 'tis observable, that at Paris and St. German's the general Complement of a Health in all English Company is, a la Sante Monsieur Jack-How; the truth of which there are not a few very good Gentlemen in Town can attest: From whence I think I may draw this Observation, That either he is a Jacobite or the Jacobites are very good-natur'd People. *Noscitur ex Socio qui non dignoscitur ex se*.

Animad.] What an artificial Way this Gentleman has in abusing Mr. How, and commending the Jacobites; first as Men of more Sense than those of his own Party; for none but those good-for-nothing Animals decry the Proceedings of the Parliament. He also recommends them as a very good-natur'd People for drinking Mr. How's Health; but the Consequence that he draws from thence by Head and Shoulders is so contemptible an Inference, that, instead of an Answer, it merits nothing but Scorn and Derision: And the English of his Latin is, that Mr. How keeps no ill Company, unless by accident he falls among the Modern Whigs.

Hist.]

Hist.] The following Sheets contain an exact History of the Kentish Petition, and of the Treatment the Gentlemen who presented it met with, both from the House, the Serjeant, and at last from their Country. The best Way to come to a Conclusion, whether the Gentlemen-Petitioners were Well, or Ill Used, is to review the Matter of Fact; all Panegyricks and Encomiums come short of the natural Reflections which flow from a true Account of that Proceeding, and the whole is collected in this Form, that all the World may judge by a true Light, and not be impos'd upon by partial and imperfect Relations.

Animadv.] How solemnly our Author ushers in his *Raree-Show*: Who could imagine less was to be seen than some of the choicest Rarities of the Universe, or something to be communicated in his Narrative, that all the World was concern'd to know at the Peril of a Guinea apiece, or to be excommunicated from *Mercer's Chappel*? And, when all comes to all, the Show ended in the sight of a few *Fiddles, Bells, and Bag-pipes*, which might be seen twice a Week at *Clarke's-hill* for Six-pence, and the Narrative is concluded as dully as if *Tom Coriat* had Penn'd it. *Stand by there, and let the Cross see the Queen.*

Enter

Enter, The History of the Kentish Petition.

HISTORY.

ON the 29th of April, 1701. the Quarter-Sessions for the County of Kent, began at Maidstone, where William Colepeper of Hollingbourn, Esq; was chosen Chair-man, tho' he was then absent, and with an unusual Respect, the Bench of Justices proceeded to do Business, and kept the Chair for him for several Hours till he came.

ANIMADVERSION.

I confess this was an unusual Respect paid to an absent Justice of the Peace, as well as strange, that a Bench of Justices should do Business without their Chair-man; but my Wonder ceases as soon as I consider there was an extraordinary Thing to be done, and proportionable Methods must be employ'd to effect it.

Hist.] The People of the County of Kent, as well as in most Parts of the Kingdom, had express'd great Dissatisfaction at the Slow Proceedings of the Parliament, and that the King was not assisted, nor the Protestants abroad considered; and the Country-People began to say one to another in their Language, That they had sowed their Corn and the French were coming to reap it. And from hence it is allowed to proceed, that during the Sitting of the Session, several of the Principal Free-holders of the County applied themselves to the Chair-man aforesaid, and told him, it was their Desire that the Bench would consider of making some Application to the Parliament, to acquaint them of the Apprehensions of the People. The Chair-man replied, it was the proper Work of the Grand-Jury to present the Grievances of the Country, and therefore refer'd them to the Grand-Jury then sitting.

Animad.] See what a Train of Confederacy to affront the House of Commons runs through every Line of the Discourse; which by its impertinent Repetitions and Aforesaid, looks more like an Attorney's Declaration, than a Preface to initiate a History; but, to let that pass, our Historian mistakes his Duty, by omitting what was Prefatory in London before any

any thing was transacted at *Maidstone*. The Malcontents in *London*, having joyn'd their wise Heads with some of the same Stamp in *Kent*, and contrived to form the Scene, out comes a Brisk Pamphlet, entituled, *A Letter from Kent, to a Member of Parliament*, shewing what Danger that County was in from a French Invasion; the Necessity of raising an Army to prevent it, or else they must all be destroyed. Ay marry must they, and that in less than a Week's time too; for if the French landed on Tuesday they would say Mass at St. Paul's in *London* the Sunday after. This put the *Kentish-men* into a Fright, the Fright into a Frenzy, and all, as the Design was laid, run mad upon Petitioning the Parliament, to raise Forces to guard their Hop-Grounds and Cherry-Orchards. This Ferment answering the Design, the Justices of Peace, in Obedience to the Orders they had received from their Correspondents in *London* and *Westminster*, some of them put themselves upon the Grand-Jury, others kept the Bench, to secure a Chairman for their Purpose: The Chairman having his Cue, refers the Party Complainers to the Grand-Jury; the Grand-Jury agree, and desire the Chairman to write them a Petition: He very gravely retires to Word *A Petition* that had been sent down from *London*, in his Verbis, five Days before the Sessions at *Maidstone*: The Truth of which, there are not a very few Gentlemen in Town can attest.

Hist.] Mr. Colepeper withdrew to compose it, and having drawn a Petition it was read and approved, and immediately order'd it to be carried to the Grand-Jury, being twenty one in number, who all unanimously sign'd it, and brought it into Court, desiring all the Gentlemen on the Bench to do the like. Whereupon the Chairman and three and twenty of the Justices sign'd it, and the Freeholders of the County crowded in so fast that the Parchment was fill'd up in less than five Hours time, and many thousands of Hands might have been had to it if the Justices had not declin'd it, refusing to add any more Rolls of Parchment, as insisting more upon the Merits of the Petition, than the Numbers of the Subscribers.

Animad.] How strangely does this dapper Son of Titan, lay Pelion upon Ossa, one mountainous Fiction upon another, to the Confusion of his Gigantick Party. First he says *Kent*, and most Part of the Kingdom were dissatisfied at the slow Proceedings of the Parliament; When not a thousandth Part of *Kent*, nor no other Part of the Kingdom joyn'd with the busy Petitioners in that idle Project. Next he says, it was the Chairman's

Opinion that the Grand-Jury ought to present their Grievances to the Court, and yet we find the Chairman first thrust into the Grand-Jury's Mouths what they should offer to the Court; so that the Petition was the Chairman's and the 23 Justices, and the 21 Grand-Jury, were but *Tools or Under-Spur-Leathers*, to the Booted Squire, and he but a Puny Clerk or Transcriber from the Original. Was ever poor Petition so handed from Pillar to Post before? See how they sett and hunt the Game and tofs the Ball from Hand to Hand, to make the World believe they form'd a Petition, *which was ready writ to their Hands*, which was making much a-do about nothing.

Hist.] By which it appears how foolish, and groundless, their Pre-
tences are, who would suggest, that the Petition was a private thing,
transacted by a few People, whereas in plain, 'twas the Act and Deed
of the whole County.

Animad.] That the Petition was but the Contrivance of
three or four factious Men at the most, is visible in the Bussle
they make to conceal the Original Authors of it, and to impose
it upon the County, for a Brat of their own Breed; for what
living Man ever heard before of *many thousand* Men being at a
Sessions in *Maidstone*, when there is never a *third part* of a
thousand that appear at the *General Assize* held for the whole
County; but our Historian has a *wide Gullet and a lit-
tle — will not choke him!* However all their Authors con-
tributes to their Purpose. The *Jura Populi Anglicani* makes
them *Numberless*: The *Legion* counts them at *two hundred thou-
sand* precisely, and our Historian calls them *many thousands*;
so that their Authors seem to be at Strife for the *Whetstone*, and
let them for Quietness sake divide it between them. But that
I may not leave my Reader in Doubt, he may please to know,
that he who wrote the *Kentish Letter*, was a great Man fallen
from a greater Post in the Ministry; They that promoted the
Petition, were all Persons that struggled to retrieve a *lost Game*,
or *General Officers*, *Receivers*, or known *Smuglers*, who make
a Figure in the time of *War*, but look like the rest of their
Neighbours in a *Peace*; and methinks that should be but very
odly now, since their *Cherries* and *Hops* are sold, their *Harvest*
in their *Barns*, and the *French* are still mumbling their *Masses*,
at *St. Dennis*. And that all this is literally, and positively true,
I challenge all the Wit and Malice the World abounds with,
to confute the most trifling Circumstance. The

The Words of the Petition are as follows :

To the Knights, Citizens, and Burgeſſes in
Parliament aſſembled,

The Humble Petition of the Gentlemen, Juſtices of the Peace, Grand-Jury, and other Freeholders, at the general Quarter-Sessions of the Peace holden at *Maidſtone*, the 29th of *April*, in the thirteenth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord King *William*, over *England*, &c.

WE the Gentlemen, Juſtices of the Peace, Grand-Jury, and other Freeholders, at the general Quarter-Sessions, at *Maidſtone*, in *Kent*, deeply concern'd at the dangerous Eſtate of this Kingdom, and of all Europe ; and conſidering that the Fate of us, and our Poſterity, depends upon the Wiſdom of our Representatives in Parliament, think our ſelves bound in Duty, humbly to lay before this Honourable Houſe, the Conſequences in this Conjunction of your ſpeedy Reſolution, and moſt ſincere Endeavour, to anſwer the great Truſt repos'd in you, by your Country.

And in Regard from the Experience of all Ages, it is manifeſt, no Nation can be Great or Happy without Union, we hope that no Pretence whatſoever ſhall be able to create a Miſunderſtanding among our ſelves, or the leaſt Diſtruſt of his Maſteſty, whoſe great Actions for this Nation, are writ in the Hearts of his Subjects, and can never without the greateſt Ingratitude be forgot.

We moſt humbly implore this Honourable Houſe, to have Regard to the Voice of the People, that our Religion, and Safety, may be effectually provided for ; that your loyal Ad-
drefſes

dressess may be turned into Bills of Supply, and that his most sacred Majesty (whose propitious and unblemished Reign over us, we pray God long to continue) may be enabled powerfully to assist his Allies before it be too late.

And your Petitioners shall humbly pray, &c.

Signed by all the Deputy-Lieutenants there Present, above Twenty Justices of the Peace, all the Grand Jury, and other Free-holders, then there.

Animad.] The Author of *Jura Populi Anglicani* is in a great Pet, because the House of Commons did not give the Petitioners the Title of 'Squires, and with Submission to that August Assembly, I think it was an Omission ; for if the *Birds* may be known by the length of their *Bills*, they ought to have entituled them 'Squires, and with the Addition of *Country* too. Their Historian therefore never fails of giving them their Due in this weighty matter, and 'twas politickly done to obviate an Objection ; for not very long since there were meer Mechanicks Justices of the Peace in that County. I knew in one Quarter an *English-School-master* that taught little Children for a Groat a Week, and a working *Carpenter* in his Leather Apron, which is but a minute Degree above a Servile *Day-Labourer*, both of them having not one Foot of Land in the World, that were in the Commission of *Peace* for the County of *Kent*. Thus much for the Superscription of the Petition, and now to the Contents.

Which in short, either directly or obliquely, either in plain Words, or clandestine Insinuations, so far as it relates to the Honourable House of Commons, is a notorious insolent and scandalous *Libel* from the Beginning to the End of it. First the Word *Fate* is of ill Acceptation, and had been more decently express'd by these Words, *Prosperity* or *Well-being*. Secondly, They call that their *Duty*, which indeed is their Disgrace, *viz.* for a Grand-Jury to pretend to direct a House of Commons. Thirdly, By Insinuating that the House of Commons had some Distrust of his Majesty, for otherwise that Sentence is forreign and impertinent, *where there is no Sore, there*

there needs no Plaster; and their hawling in the blackest Ingratitude, as a Consequence of the former scandalous Supposition, is a Crime, of so deep a Dye, that I want Words bad enough to express my Resentments. Fourthly, The Prayer of their Petition, besides the Sauciness and Impertinency of it, is an open Affront to the whole House, and tells them in plain Words or direct Consequents, that they had so long neglected our Religion and Safety, that it was almost too late to retrieve them; and from thence take the Confidence to tell all our Representatives, that they ought to turn their *Loyal Addresses into Bills of Supplies*, that his most gracious Majesty may be enabled Powerfully to assist his Allies before it be too late. Which Charges the House with a Fault, extending not only to their native Country, but also prejudicial to his Majesty's Allies; and then assume a Prerogative of a dictating a Remedy. And if this was not a Misdemeanor, then 'twas none in the *Israelites* murmuring and threatening *Moses*, for pulling down the Idols their Folly had erected in the *High Places* of *Jewry*. The next thing I observe, is the Vanity, Impertinence, and Self-contradiction of the *Libellers*, who acknowledge the House of Commons to be a *Wise Assembly*, and yet they have one and twenty *Grand-Jury* Men, and three and twenty *Justices of the Peace* that are able to direct the whole House, in the great Affairs of *Europe*. Their praying the House to have regard to the *Voice of the People* is nonsense; for every little Faction lays Claim to that Appellation, and have wore it so Thread-bare, that 'tis scandalous to make use of it, as appropriating it to a Party; for none can be truly called the *People of England* in a devided Capacity; and they are only *Whole* and *Entire*, in their Representatives in Parliament. They also say that the Commons were *Loyal*, which Word comprehends all that is Honourable and Serviceable to the Crown, and yet Clamour against them; but their Reasons are understood in converting them into *Bills of Supplies*, because the chief Promoters of the *Libel* behind the Curtain, are in Expectation of being *Receivers* and *Bag-bearers*. In another thing, they have also notoriously misfed it, and that was, in unluckily supplying the Defect in Mr. *Alsop's Address*, to the late King *James*, for it has made a Window into their Breasts, that discovers the Evil Designs of the whole Antiparliamentary Party.

Hist.] As soon as the Petition was sign'd, it was deliver'd to the aforesaid William Colepeper, Esquire, desiring him in their Names to present it to the Parliament; and Justinian Champney, Esquire, David Polhil, Esquire, and William Hamilton, Esquire, offer'd themselves to go with him. Tuesday, the sixth of May, they came to Town, and next Day applied themselves to Sir Thomas Hales, one of their Representatives, desiring him to present it to the House of Commons. Sir Thomas desir'd the Liberty of skewing it to Mr. Pelham of Suffex: Mr. Colepeper was willing he should see it, but was unwilling to part with it, saying he should make but an indifferent Figure in his Country if the Petition should be lost.

Animad.] Who so fit to carry the Brat as the pretended Father of it; tho' I admire at the Caution he us'd about shewing it, since the Copy of this Petition was read in Vivers's Coffee-house, adjoining to the Court of Requests, two Days before the Petitioners came to London.

Hist.] Sir Thomas Hales past his Word and Honour, that he would not shew it to any Person whatsoever, but to Mr. Pelham; and that he would return it to them immediately. But his Word and Honour so solemnly engaged, was as easily forgotten: for having got the Petition, he carried it into the House, where he staid an Hour and half, and then returning, gave it to the Gentlemen, and told them he had shew'd it to Sir Edward Seymour and several others. This perfidious Account, to that very part of the Nation which he represented, deserves some special Notice, and there is no question but the People will remember it for him, and shew their Resentment on proper Occasions.

Animad.] Threaten'd Folks live long, and there is no question to be made but before that Day comes, the People will return to their Wits again; and if they don't, 'twill be no accession of Honour to represent such a giddy Multitude. However our Historiian has basely abused this worthy Gentleman in calling him Perfidious, and rendring him a Man of neither Faith nor Honour, which I leave to Sir Thomas Hales to take his own Satisfaction.

Hist.] Mr. Colepeper, in the Name of the rest, let him know, how Ungentleman-like he had us'd them, and that he had broke his Word, and serv'd his Country ill; but this being neither Time nor Place for Debates, Sir Thomas adjourn'd them till the next Morning in the Court of Requests, where he told them absolutely he would not deliver this Petition.

Animad.]

Animad.] What harm there was in shewing the Petition to a Member, that must hear it read, if ever it was deliver'd, I cannot imagine, tho' they reproach the Knight for it; and if they had carried it Home again, after Sir Thomas refus'd to deliver it, they would never have repented following his Example; but they were in, and must wade through.

Hist.] Here it is very observable, that the very time Sir Thomas Hales came out of the House and return'd the Petition in the manner above-mentioned, Mr. Meredith, the other Representative for the County, came to them, and told them, that their Petition had been expos'd in the House, and that Mr. How was then making a Speech against it; and the Gentlemen finding themselves betrayed by Sir Thomas Hales, they apply'd themselves to Mr. Meredith, who undertook to deliver it; but in the Morning, the House being met, Mr. Meredith came out and told the Gentlemen, that the House was in such a Ferment, that no body durst appear for it, or would speak a Word in the House for the Petition.

Animad.] Not to reflect upon our Author's prolix Way of telling a Tale of a Tub, which he might have done in ten Lines as well as ten thousand; methinks what Mr. Meredith told them was a sufficient Warning to avoid ensuing Danger; but they were fond of their Errand, and, as the Dutch Proverb says, *Being Shipt with the Devil must go over with him.*

Hist.] Other Gentlemen, that were really their Friends and in concern for them, came also out of the House to them, and desir'd them not to expose themselves to the Fury of the House, by delivering the Petition; telling them that Mr. How in particular had said, That if there were an hundred thousand Hands to the Petition, they should be all made Examples: And Sir Edward Seymour added, That the whole County should be double Tax'd, and the Estates of those that presented it should be Confiscated to the use of the War.

Animad.] After all these Friendly Admonitions, I think it was a hardy part to act as they did; but some Men are ambitious of Transferring their Names to Posterity, for he that Burnt the Temple of *Diana* has a Place in the Annals of Time as well as he that built it:

Hist.] Altho' the Menaces, together with the almost omnipotent Power of the House of Commons, had Circumstances enough in them to shake the Resolution of a whole County; yet they had not the Effect here which was expected; for the Gentlemen, far from being terrify'd

at all this, unanimously declar'd their Resolution to Discharge the Trust plac'd in them by their Country, and to present it to the House: Mr. William Colepeper in particular alluding to the Words of Luther, to those who dissuaded him from going to the City of Worms, told them, That if every Tile upon St. Stephen's Chappel was a Devil he would present the Petition. And all of them declar'd, That if none of the Gentlemen that represented their Country would do their Country so much Service, as to present their Grievances to the Parliament in a legal Petition, they would knock at the Door of the House and deliver it themselves; and Mr. Meredith, finding the Gentlemen so resolute, did consent to carry in the Petition, which he perform'd with great Discretion and Fidelity.

Animad.] How strangely is our Historian transported at shewing this Paragraph: He Huffs like a Town-Bully, and Cocks and Prims, as if he had utterly subdued the almost Omnipotent Power of the House of Commons; for he has storm'd their Castle, by resolving to knock at their Legissatorships Door; and now, if they are forc'd to Capitulate, who can accuse their Courage? For what Power on Earth, that is but almost Omnipotent, can resist against the Batteries of those terrible Engines, Petitions, Resolutions, Colepepers, Merediths, Luthers, Grievances, Tiles of St. Stephen's Chappel, Devils, many thousand Petitioners, and all led on by a desperate Historian of three Weeks and two and twenty Pages in Octavo. Well, the Enemy has entered the Garrison, let us see how they speed.

Hist.] The Petition being thus deliver'd, the Gentlemen attended, for Mr. Speaker, further to intimidate them, had let fall some Speeches, that it was the Usage of the House, when a Petition was brought in, the Persons who brought it ought to be ready without, to justify the Matter of their Petition. And the Gentlemen, seeing no reason to be asham'd of theirs, in particular, resolv'd to abide the utmost, which their and the Nation's Enemies could do them.

Animad.] What a lame Speech the Kentish Historian has hammer'd out for the Speaker; but it seems it fell from the Speaker, and our Historian lost some Words out of it in taking of it up; which rendring him negligent in the great Trust reposed in him by his Country; if the Gentlemen were not asham'd of their Petition, they have all the reason in the World to be asham'd of their Historian; who Represents the Honourable House of Commons as Enemies to the Nation.

Hist.]

Hist.] *Having waited about half an Hour, they were call'd in to the Bar of the House, where, Mr. Speaker treating them in his usual haughty Tone, this short Dialogue past between them.*

Speaker.] *Gentlemen, Is this your Petition?* [Holding up the Petition by one Corner.]

Gentlemen.] *Yes, Mr. Speaker.* [Bowling very Respectively.]

Speaker.] *And, Gentlemen, you own this Petition?*

Gent.] *Yes, Mr. Speaker.*

Speaker.] *And, Gentlemen, your Hands are to this Petition?*

Gent.] *Yes, Mr. Speaker.*

Speaker.] *Carry it to them, and see if they will own their Hands.* [Turning to one of the Clerks.]

[Which they severally did.]

Speaker.] *Withdraw, and expect the Order of the House.*

Animad.] *What an unsufferable Fatigue this Kentish Historian puts me to, in answering him Paragraph by Paragraph; which I am necessitated to do, or the Party will say I have dealt unfairly by him. If there were either Wit, Fancy or Design in my Antagonist, it would be some Pleasure; but where there is nothing but a meer String of insignificant Words, and paltry Reflections, 'tis a Drudgery equal to that of holding a Candle to the Devil, or washing a Negro. Of what importance is this Dialogue, only for the advantage of saying the Speaker, who is a Person of known Candour and Civility, treated the Gentlemen in a haughty Tone; which is as contrary to his Nature and Practice, as speaking Truth is to our Historian's.*

Hist.] *Whereupon they withdrew into the Lobby, where some Members came out to them, and perswaded them, by a Submission to the House, to prevent Imprisonment and Ruin of their Fortunes and Families, which was the least they had to expect. Then Impeachments, Laws ex post facto, tacking them to Money-Bills, and all the Arbitrary Methods that an Arbitrary Parliament have ever made use of to ruin those that have felt their Magnipotent Indignation laid before them; other Members came to them, and told them, that they were sent out by Sir Edward Seymour and the rest of the Gentlemen on that Side, to let them know, that Mr. How was now speaking,*

and would continue so for some time, to give them opportunity to recollect themselves, and by a timely Acknowledgment save themselves from Ruin.

Animad.] I have heard of some Persons that *Romanc'd* for a *Whetstone*, but our Author has such vast Abilities in that Art, that he is qualified to Engage for a *Milstone*. 'Tis very probable some of their Friends might use some of those Arguments in *Terrorem*; but that any Members of that Honourable House should call the Parliament (I suppose he means the House of Commons; for the word *Parliament* includes both Houses, tho' he has not Sence enough to understand it) an *Arbitrary Parliament*, can never sink into the Belief of any Man that has his Reason about him. And if Sir *Edward Seymour*, Mr. *How*, and the rest of the Gentlemen on that side were so kind to them, they have very ill requited their Generosity and Civility towards them, by flying in their Faces, with Rude and Ungentlemen like Scurrilities.

Hist.] The Gentlemen not being conscious that they had offended the House, or acted contrary to the known Constitution of the Realm, remained still unshaken, and boldly replied, They had nothing to say, but what was in their Petition; but being further press'd by Sir *Theophilus Oglethorp*, and several other Gentlemen; and because they would not shew any Disrespect to the House, or seem to slight their Displeasure, they gave in their Answer to the House in Writing, in the following Words:

WE are Humbly of Opinion, that it is our Right to Petition this Honourable House according to the Statute 13 Car. 2. As to the Matter of the Petition, We intend nothing offensive to this Honourable House.

Animad.] This Gentleman according to the Custom of the *Anti-parliamentary* Faction, labours with great Diligence, tho' with ill Success, to justify an unadvised Action, against the Opinion of so many unconcern'd Gentlemen, who must needs see further into the Business, than Persons byass'd by Humour and Interest, and so whilst our Author pretends to do them Right, in asserting the Justice of their Pretensions, does them an unpardonable Injury, in laying them under the common Cen-

Censure of Mankind; for what else can it mean, that their acting against the Advice of so many real Friends in the House, and other indifferent Members that pitied their unluckly Circumstances; but that the Gentlemen Petitioners Obstinacy, and ungovernable Wills, had blinded their Reason and Prudence. While the Cry was upheld by the *Party*, many well-meaning Men seem'd to espouse their Cause; but Time that brings Truth to light, having now unveil'd the *Clue*, and laid open the Designs of the Faction, that put them upon this rash Undertaking, the Scene of Affairs are *Alter'd*, the Peoples Eyes are Open, and they declaim as loudly now against the Petition, as they were once zealous for it; so that all Attempts of the Justification of the Petitioners is but exposing them: And as to their Right of *Petitioning*, that Pretence is out of Doors, for the Question is not about the Right of *Petitioning*, which you see is allowed to the meanest Subject of *England*; but the Dispute is, Whether they had Right to *Assault* and *Abuse* the House, with a *scandalous, insolent and seditious* Petition; as you have seen it proved to be beyond Contradiction.

Hist.] *This Writing being shown to Sir Theophilus Oglethorp, and several other Members, they began to smile, and imagined their Point gained, and told the Gentlemen that if they would but add one Word more, viz. That they were sorry for what they had done, they would undertake for the Clemency of the House. To this the Gentlemen answer'd, We will have no Sorry. Here the Members, or rather the Conspirators, would have it put in, that they did it through Inadvertency; this they also refus'd, saying it was the mature and deliberate Act of their Country, justifiable by Law, and they would never recede from it; so they delivered the Paper to Sir Thomas Hales, but whither he deliver'd it to the House, or no, he never had the Civility to inform them.*

Animad.] All that I shall observe on this Paragraph, is, that Sir Theophilus Oglethorp, and the rest of the *Smiling* Members, were very much their Friends; for what Interest could they serve in this Condescension? but Respect and Compassion, and *they that won't Sorrow before, may have cause enough to be Sorry afterwards*: And here their Historian deserves a severe Reprimand, for his sawcy Reflection upon Sir Theophilus Oglethorp, and the rest of the Members, in calling them *Conspirators*.

rors; but he is so much below their, or my Anger, that I leave him, like a *Fly* *buffing* about a *Candle* to take Revenge upon himself.

Hist.] *The Debate in the House held five Hours, after which, Notice was given them, that the House had voted the Petition scandalous, insolent and seditious, and ordered them to be taken into Custody; upon which the Gentlemen went and surrendered themselves to the Serjeant, tho' the Warrant was not made out for some Hours after. The Serjeant only asked them, where he should come to them at Dinner, which was agreed to be at the Castle-tavern in Fleet-street; where they dined on Thursday, Friday and Sunday, and were hitherto very civilly treated by his Officers; and accompanied by great numbers of Citizens, and Gentlemen of the first Quality, and not a few of the Nobility; so that the Serjeant had no Reason to say he fear'd a Rescue; for it was never heard of before, that they who could escape when they pleas'd, would expose their Friends to the Hazard of a Rescue.*

Animad.] Voting the Petition *scandalous* and *seditious* was no more than it deserv'd, as appeared by the Reason given in the *Vote*, as tending to destroy the Constitution of Parliaments, and subvert the establish'd Government of this Realm. But our Author *Hocus Pocus* like, by *Legerdemain*, conveys that Clause out of Sight, and only gives us, tending to destroy, &c. The usual Method of Party-Scriblers, and especially with our Author who is super-excellent at *Addition* and *Substraction*, and never fails to employ them whensoever they serve his Purposes, and indeed weak Causes stand in need of such Supporters; but a good one abhors them. I told you upon my first encountering his *Preface*, when I saw him begging at his Readers *Door*, to credit his Relation, what we were to expect from such an ardent Sollicitation, and if I am not mistaken, he has prov'd the Suggestion in every Paragraph of his Pamphlet, and shew'd you how possible it is for a *Historian* of three Weeks to impose upon the World, and call in every Body's Memory, to shew how egregiously he exposes himself for a Trifler, in telling a Story but of Yesterday.

Hist.] On Friday Mr. Serjeant treated with them, and let them know, he had an unbounded Liberty of using them at Discretion, that he would confine them in Dungeons, lay them under Ground, keep them apart, remove them daily, and keep all People from them, by making them

them close Prisoners ; upon which the Gentlemen offer'd him a hundred Guinea's, half in Hand, and the other half when they should be discharged, tho' it should be the next Day : The Serjeant neither accepted, nor refused the Offer, nor express'd any Dislike, as if it were too little, but appointed to come to them the next Day.

Animad.] That the Serjeant at Arms should talk at that Rate, and consequently expose the House as Persecutors is utterly false ; for this would rather have been a Reflection upon his Masters, than a Way to enhance the Price for his Civility to the Prisoners. Can any Man believe that a Sergeant to the House of Commons, would talk of an unbounded Authority, using Gentlemen at Discretion, putting them in *Dungeons*, laying them under Ground, and keeping all People from them, while the House was sitting, and when they had Friends enough to have complain'd against him, if he had treated them uncivilly. How does a Discourse of *Dangerous*, &c. agree with his suffering them to range about Town, to dine at Taverns, and be visited by great numbers of Citizens, Gentlemen, and the Nobility, and not refusing the hundred Pound which was offer'd him ; so we must go a little further, to know whether Mr. Serjeant treated the Petitioners unkindly, or whether the single Soald Kentish Historian has traduced Mr. Sergeant ; tho' 'tis easy to be prov'd, that this Wound was intended against the House through their Sergeant's Side, as if they had directed him to treat the Gentlemen rudely. For the Quarrel lies against the House and not against the Sergeant.

Hist.] Saturday in the Evening, Mr. Thomas Colepeper having Notice that his Lady was very much frighted at his Commitment, desired the Messenger, in whose Custody he was, to let him go down to Maidstone, upon his Parol to return by Munday-night ; which the Messenger tacitely granted. The rest of the Gentlemen being met at the Tavern, expected the Serjeant according to Appointment ; and having waited till ten of the Clock, instead of coming himself, he sends Orders to the Messengers, to separate the Gentlemen, and confine them in several Prisons that very Night : which Orders, the Officers executed as rudely as the Serjeant could desire, saving that they obtained the Civility from the Officers, to be confined two in one Place, and two in another ; but were hurried away with such unmannerly Indecency, that they would not permit them to send for their Night-gowns and Necessaries.

Animad.] Mr. Colepeper had no reason to believe, that it was in the Power of an Under-officer to give him leave to be absent, without the Serjeant's Consent, and if upon that Notice the Serjeant put them to a stricter Confinement, they had no reason to complain.

Hist.] In this manner Mr. William Colepeper; and Mr. Justinian Champney, were carried to Myat's House the Messenger, in Fox-court in Holbourn, where they had this hard Choice, either to lodge in the Cellar or in the Garret; and choosing the latter, they were thrust into a little Hole on the top of the House, where they had all the Inconveniencies of a nasty Prison, as base Lodging, foul Sheets, little Covering, and a cold Room, by which Means, they both took such Cold, as they have not yet recover'd.

Animad.] Without doubt the Lodgings in a poor Messenger's House, are not comparable to those at their own Homes, yet they are far from being so Mean and Base, as the Historian represents them, but when Men are dispos'd to raise a Quarrel, they can easily convert a Room of two Stories high into a Garret, and the first Floor into a Dungeon.

Hist.] But Mr. Serjeant, lest they should not be treated ill enough, coming the next Morning to Mr. Myat's House, was in a great Rage at him, and drawing his Sword cut him over the Head, for using the Gentlemen so civilly, as he call'd it: Afterwards coming up into the Garret, where Mr. Colepeper and Mr. Champney were lodged, they ask'd him what Order he had for using them thus? He reply'd, he had an Order from those that committed them. Being ask'd again if any such Vote had pass'd the House? He said, No, but he had an Order. Mr. Colepeper replied, If it be not a Vote of the House, pray how is it an Order? Have the Majority of the House come to you, and given you Directions to use us thus Barbarously? He reply'd, Yes they had. For which scandalous Reflection, if false, his Masters, the Members of the House of Commons, are exceedingly obliged to him; Mr. Colepeper told him he should live to see him hang'd. And so they parted.

Animad.] The Serjeant did not correct his Servant for using the Gentlemen civilly, but for his Perfidy and Breach of Trust, in suffering a Prisoner to escape, for so the Serjeant had reason to call it, when it was done contrary to his Knowledge; for after all our Historian's Rage and laying about him, if the Serjeant had lost his Place, for the Fault of his Servant,

vant, I am afraid the Petitioners would scarce have repair'd his Damages. And as to the Charge of using the Gentlemen barbarously, the Historian gives us no Proof of it, but on the contrary, we find Mr. Colepeper told him *he should live to see him hang'd*; but we hear of no unhandsom Replication made by Mr. Serjeant, *tho' he had lost his Prisoner, and was threatned with Hanging*, which were both of ill digestion so early in the Morning.

Hist.] *All this while Mr. Polhill and Mr. Hamilton were put into a Cellar, without the Favour of having their choice, and had so vile a Lodging, that they could scarce breathe, and was likewise in their turn bullied by Mr. Serjeant the next Day; and when they askt him to shew them the Copy of their Commitment, he denied it; Mr. Polhill in particular replied, They askt him nothing but what by Law he ought to grant: He rudely replied, He cared not a Farth for them nor the Law neither. On Thursday he gave the House notice, that the Younger Mr. Colepeper had made his Escape, tho' he had a Letter from him, that he would be in Town that very Day, and at the same time made a Complaint, that the other Gentlemen behaved themselves so disorderly, that he apprehended a Rescue; tho' the Gentlemen, to avoid any Suspicion, had voluntarily surrendered their Swords to the Messengers, without being requir'd so to do.*

Animad.] 'Tis a Ground-room, not a Cellar; but I wonder when our Historian of three Weeks was surveying the Dimensions of these Enchanted Castles, he did not make it a Dungeon, or Little-ease; for he might have done it with as much truth, as to say the Gentlemen were scarce able to breathe in it. He also misrepresents the Serjeant's Words, and adds a Stink to them of his own making, that the Reader might disrelish them. He said, *He did not care for them nor their Law neither*; meaning, I suppose, the Law that gave them assurance to Affront his Masters. Why he is offended at the Serjeant's Complaint, I cannot imagine, for he staid till the time appointed by Mr. Colepeper was claps'd, who promis'd to return on Monday, but did not appear while Wednesday.

Hist.] *This Complaint to the House was the Gentlemens Deliverance, and the Serjeant's Disappointment, tho' not in kind. As to them neither; for ordering them to the Gate-house, as a more ignominious Confinement, the Serjeant lost the extravagant Fees, which he design'd to extort from them: For this Kceper us'd them like Gentlemen,*
and

and the Reputation he has obtain'd by his Civility, will be as lasting as the Infamy of the Serjeant, the one leaves a grateful Acknowledgment in the Mouths of all Men, and will always be spoken of to his advantage, and the other nauseous like the Person, is dishonourable both to his Memory, and to the House that employ'd him.

Animadv.] The Historian is in a great Rage against Mr. Serjeant, he began by calling him the Worst of Brutes in his Preface, and continuing to Revile him through his whole Pamphlet in pretty Epithets peculiar to the Party, which perhaps the Author may hear of again in a Way he will take no plea in; and yet, after all, the Author and Petitioners are both extremely oblig'd to him, the one in furnishing him with Matter to Rig up a Pamphlet, and the other in saving them a Hundred Pounds, to spend with the Humane, Gentile, Civil and Reputable Faylor, Captain Taylor, at the Gate-house, Westminster.

Hist.] On Wednesday, Thomas Colepeper, Esquire, the younger Brother, who had been in Kent, and was just come up, according to his Promise, render'd himself to the Speaker, and desir'd to be sent to his Brethren. Mr. Serjeant, who thought to make himself amends upon him, labour'd to have him continu'd in his Custody, and had not that Party in the House thought the Gate-house a greater Punishment, possibly it had been so. But therein that Infalible House were deceived, and he was delivered from the Hands of a Villain by his Enemies themselves, who thought they had mortified him the more, to the infinite Regret of the Serjeant, and the general Satisfaction of his Fellow-Sufferers.

Animadv.] In this loose limping Story I observe, that Mr. Colepeper broke his Word two Days, and might have done it two Months, if he had not receiv'd Intelligence, that a Proclamation was issuing out to apprehend him. Next, what a lawless Liberty our Author takes to Scoff at the House of Commons, and call their Serjeant, who is a Gentleman of a good Family, a Villain: Thirdly, That he deserves a severer Mortification than to be lodg'd in a Garret or Cellar.

Hist.] The same Morning that Mr. Colepeper surrendred himself to the Legion Paper, as 'twas called, was sent to the House; 'twas said it was deliver'd the Speaker by a Woman; but I have been inform'd since, that it was a Mistake, and that 'twas deliver'd by the very Person who wrote it, guarded with about sixteen Gentlemen of

Qua-

Quality; who, if any Notice had been taken of him, were ready to have carried him off by Force; 'twas reported, that Mr. Thomas Colepeper brought it out of Kent, and that all the Country was at his Heels to make it good, tho' it was really no such thing, and that Gentleman declar'd he knew nothing of it.

Animadv.] The *Legion Paper* was an infamous Libel in its own Contents and Design, and, like *Pandora's Box*, cramm'd with all the Plagues that infect and destroy Mankind; and, let who will deliver it to Mr. *Speaker*, they vastly mistook the proper Person, for they should have deliver'd it to the *Hangman* for a Cast of his Office. The Manner in which it was deliver'd, shews its intended Mischief; for Truth needs no Force to support it, nor the whole County of *Kent* at the Heels of a single Gentleman to make it good; tho' all this great Cry and no *Wool*, is only to Terrifie those with Numbers that are apt to be Frighted with a *Noise* about *Nothing*. Nor was his Pains about telling us who was *not* the Author of the *Legion Paper* better employ'd, for the Authors of it are known already, tho' he thinks fit, by this impertinent Tatling to raise a *Blind* to obscure them from Publick Knowledge, and a Reward due to *Birds* that defile their own *Nests*.

Hist.] But, be it as it will, that Paper struck such a Terror into their Party in the House, that from that time there was not a Word spoken in the House, of proceeding against the *Kentish* Petitioners, and the Members of that Party began to drop off and get into the Country, for their Management began to be so disliked over the whole Nation, that their own Fears dictated to them they had run things too far.

Animadv.] Those that our Author calls that Party in the House, are known to be Gentlemen of more Courage, than to be terrified at the Sight of a *Paper-Kite* hovering in the Air, tho' it carried Fire at the Tail of it; they were never yet known to be Word-sick, but have constantly maintain'd their Ground against all the Enemies of their Country; and if their emergent Affairs lead them to their own Residencies, they will return the very same Men, to the Shame of those *State-Quacks* that are poysoning the Fountains of Truth with their Exotick Drugs, and purging the Body Politick from the Chronical Diseases of *Liberty* and *Property*. A thing long aim'd at, but impossible to be obtain'd, while there are any *Harleys*, *Musgraves*,

Seymours, Showers, or Harcourts, and the rest of that Party, as he calls them, in the House.

Hist.] The Clashings with the Upper-House, about the Tryal of the four Peers they had Impeach'd, and the miserable Shifts they were driven to by the Lords to avoid Trying them, serv'd but to make them more uneasie, and to hasten the Dispatch of the Money-Bills, in order to the Prorogation, which was on the 23d of June, 1701.

Animad.] Here the Historian shews himself without a Mask, in endeavouring to uphold the unhappy Differences between the two Houses of Parliament; but he must excuse me in following him in such wicked and dangerous Paths; for I had rather sacrifice a Limb to compose the Disputes between them, than to have a great Reward by acting a Part, or letting fall one Word that might continue them at Variance:

Hist.] By the Prorogation the Kentish Gentlemen were discharged, but to shew their Respect to the Civility of Captain Taylor, their Keeper, they continued to lodge with him till they went into the Country.

Animadv.] In this Paragraph the Kentish Historian has made two notable Discoveries worthy 'so Learned a Pen': The first is, That the Kentish Petitioners were so Fond of a Goal, they were unwilling to part with it; but that we are not so much obliged to him for as he thinks we are; for if they had not been unaccountably pleas'd with the Honour of such a Lodging, they would never have taken so much Pains, at the Expence of their Prudence, to have purchas'd it. The next is, That he politickly makes *Panegyricks* on Captain Taylor, because he knows not how soon he may have occasion to experiment his Civilities.

Hist.] The first Honour done them on account of their Sufferings, was their being invited to a Noble Entertainment at Mercers-hall in Cheap-side, at the Charge of the Citizens of London, where above two hundred Gentlemen din'd with them, together with several Noble Lords and Members of Parliament.

Animad.] Still at his old Trade of Prevaricating and Imposing upon his Readers. First he says it was a Noble Entertainment; If he means in respect of the Price, he is two Bows and a half short in his Reckoning, for it cost One and twenty Shillings and Six-pence. If he means in respect of the

Guests;

Guests; Query, How that Title belongs to Citizens? Next he says, It was at the Charge of *The Citizens of London*; and so his Monasillable *The* makes it look like an Act of the Whole City, whereas he should have said at the Charge of *SOME Citizens of London*, or of a Herd of *Guiney Pigs*, that had a mind to *Grunt* together against the House of Commons; and distinguish themselves from the rest of their Wiser and more Peaceable Brethren. *Smuglers* and *Citizens* always understand one another.

Hist.] Thursday, the Second of July, they set out for Kent; the Citizens had offer'd to accompany them out of Town, but they declin'd it, desiring to go privately.

Animadv.] It's pity they refus'd the Complement; for it has spoil'd the Application of a good Proverb, *Noscite ex Socio; qui non dignoscitur ex Se*; which in English is, They would have lookt like another Royal Regiment on their March towards Ireland.

Hist.] And those who pretend to charge them with affecting Popularity, would do well to remember, that they were forc'd to send their Coaches empty out of Town, and go by Water to meet them, to avoid the Respect which the Citizens would have shewn them.

Animadv.] What ingenious Observations our Author accommodates his Readers with? How incomparably he intermixes *Utile* and *Dulce*! A Man would scarce imagine an Author could be so witty at his Age, especially with such a *Phiz* and in such a *Party*. Review his Remarks again. First, That there was no Sign of Popularity in the World, either from *Maidstone* to *London*, from *London* to *Westminster*, from thence to several Taverns in the *Strand* and *Fleet-street*, keeping an Open Table at the *Gate-house*, Feasting at *Mercers-chappel*, Rendezvouzing and Huzzaing at *Black-heath*, Revelling at *Roche-ster*, Staying till they were met at *Sandling*, and Riding triumphantly into *Maidstone*. This is a Nice Remark of our *Three Weeks Historian*, which kills two Birds with one Stone, and gives us an Instance both of our Author's *Modesty*, and the Petitioners Desires of *Privacy* at the same time. Nor are his three other Remarks less worthy of your most serious Consideration. First, That the *Kentish* Petitioners had Coaches. Secondly, That they were sent Empty out of Town. Thirdly, That they were sent Empty out of Town, to avoid the Respect which

which the *Citizens* would have shewn them! *Ay, my dear Friends,* and even to avoid the Danger of the *London Guiney-Pigs* being trampled under Foot at their Solemn Parading among the numerous *Kentish Boors* at *Black-heath* in *Comitatu Dumplinienfi*. Well, go thy way, *Little Lad,* for a *Historian!* Thou shalt have my *Mony* when I give it away for nothing.

Hist.] But there was no shunning the Appearance of the Country, who shewed their Value for the Gentlemen and the Cause for which they had suffer'd, in all the possible Terms of Respect and Affection; the first Instance of this was at *Black-heath*, where *David Polhill*, one of the Gentlemen, was to separate from the rest, his Road lying near *Bromly*, to his House at *Otford* in *Kent*. He was met at *Black-heath* by above five hundred Horse, who received him into the midst of them, and surrounded his Coach with such Shouts and Joy, as sufficiently testified their Respects for him, and their Satisfaction at his return among them: Nor can I omit, that having to satisfy my Curiosity, drank among and discours'd with some of that Party, while they were waiting for *Mr. Polhill*, I never heard of any Gentleman more universally beloved by the Country, or more particularly distinguish'd for Modesty and Temper; and I believe that I may affirm that 'twou'd be hard to find any Gentleman nigh the City of *London*, who could have had such an Appearance of Tennants and Neighbours to congratulate his Deliverance.

Animad.] I will not oppose the Character he gives *Mr. Polhill*, the Gentleman is a Stranger to me, tho' I could have wish'd to have found him in better Company than this Panegyrist, who has the Assurance to affirm, that all this Noise was no Argument of the Petitioners courting Popularity, for he must deprive Men of all their Senses and their Reasons before they can assent to it.

Hist.] *Mr. Polhill*, being come to the Corner of the *Park-wall* on *Black-heath*, stopt to take his Leave of his Brethren, and giving them a loud *Huzza*, wish'd them a good Journey, and proceeded to *Otford*. All possible Demonstration of Joy concluded the Day, and it was never known that ever the Country express'd more Satisfaction, since the Coronation of *King William*, than at the return of this Gentleman.

The rest of the Gentlemen proceeded to *Rochester*, where they were met by such a Body of Horse, that the principal Inns in Town could not entertain them, some of whom, had come twenty Miles to meet them.

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The Mayor of Rochester paid his Respect to them, and complained that he had no Notice given him of their Coming, otherwise he would have met them out of Town with a good Body of Horse.

Animad.] Here was great Omission in the Managers of the Cavalcade, that Mr. Mayor of Rochester, had no Notice of their Approach upon his Borders; for Mayors and Pageants ought never to be parted; and that he with the rest of the Aldermen or Jurats his Brethren, made the Petitioners a Congratulatory Visit after such a Slight, was a great Condescension in the Right Worshipful and Worshipful Heads of that Corporation.

Hist.] Here they rested and refiſhed themselves, and Horses, and about six of the Clock set forward for Maidstone; the People of Maidstone, tho' it was Market-day, could not have Patience to wait at the Place where they generally go to meet the Judges; but a great many Horsemen met them on the Downs, at the Top of Boxly-hill, four miles from the Town.

Animad.] The Kentish-Historian is resolv'd to leave nothing behind him, to compleat the Gentlemen Petitioners Characters; as before he had set them under laudible Epithets, for their Modesties and Tempers, he now advances their Renown, in commending their Christian Charity: viz. They refiſhed their Horses as well as themselves, in order to meet another sort of Animals at Boxly-hill, that had not Patience to stay till they came to Sandlin, but at the Peril of their Heads being adorn'd, left their Wives behind them to make their own Markets.

Hist.] At Sandlin, about two miles from the Town, the Gentlemen of the Neighbourhood with (not in) their Coaches, and an innumerable number of People on Horseback and on Foot, shouting and bidding them Welcom; After a short stay there to receive the Compliments of the Gentlemen, they proceeded (the Gentlemen's Coaches falling into the Rear, a very remarkable Observation) to the Park, the Seat of the Lady Taylor, who is married to Mr. Thomas Colepeper, where they were welcom'd by the said Lady Taylor, the old Lady Colepeper, the Mother of the Gentleman, and several Ladies of Quality, the People shouting all the while, A Colepeper, a Colepeper; and the Poor strowng the Way with Greens and Flowers, and thus they proceeded into Town; with such universal Acclamations of the People, as the like was never seen in that County since the Restoration of King Charles the Second.

Animad.] Whether the Gentlemen Petitioners, or those they think their Enemies, are most oblig'd to their Historian for the *Grub-street Account* he has given of their *Ghests*, I leave the former to determine. At what a Rate does he talk of the *Lady Taylor*, and the said *Lady Taylor*, as if he was drawing a Declaration, and had nothing to say in Commendation of *that vertuous Lady*, to whom I have the Honour of being Related; and will never forgive his Omission. Besides, in mentioning the good *Lady Colepeper* he is pleas'd to call her *Old*, which is Abfurd, and Unmannerly; for Men should never talk of *A G E*, but when they are buying Horfes; the contrary is Rudeness in the Abstract, especially among the *Fair Sex*; but what do I talk of our *Three Weeks* Historian's wanting Manners, when 'tis apparent he has lost the use of his *Sences*, for in my Country, People use to hear Acclamations, but our Author sees them, *viz.* Such Acclamations were never seen before in that Country, &c. but before this time I never heard of any thing but *Hogs* that on Shoar could see the Wind.

Hist.] The Night concluded with a great Bonfire, and the Healths of all the Gentlemen drunk round it, to the great Mortification of the *Jacobites*, of whom there are but a very few in those Parts, and to the general Satisfaction of the Country.

Nor was this the only Appearance, for at Beartsted, about three miles further, the Country was assembled, the Bells rung, and several hundreds of People continued together all Night, with extraordinary Joy, expecting that the Elder *Mr. Colepeper*, *Mr. Champney*, and *Mr. Hamilton*, would have continued their Journey to *Hollingbourn*, the ancient Seat of the Family of the *Colepepers*; but the extraordinary Reception they found at *Maidstone*, had detain'd them so long, that 'twas too late to go on; so they lay at *Maidstone* that Night and the next Day abundance of Gentlemen and Country People, came particularly to pay their Respects to them, and bid them Welcome into the Country.

And at the time of the *Affizes* lately held at *Maidstone*; the *Grand-Jury* consisting of very eminent Gentlemen and Free-holders of the County, whereof twelve were *Justices of the Peace*, went in a Body to the Gentlemen, and publickly gave them Thanks for their Fidelity to the Country, in delivering their Petition to the Parliament.

In all these Expressions of the Countrys Joy at the Return of these Honest Gentlemen, it might be enquired, what they said of the
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Parliament, (the House of Commons, the Dull-man means) because 'tis so natural to Curse with one Hand, when we Bless with the other, that it might be rationally expected; 'tis true the Country being justly disoblidged at the ill Usage of these Gentlemen, did not spare their Reflections; but I choose to pass it over, because 'tis not Parliaments in General, but the Conspirators and Jacobite-Party in Parliament, that are at present the Nation's Burden, and from whom she groans to be redeem'd.

Animad.] In this last Paragraph, I thought the Author was about to shew how modestly the Gentlemen at their return into the Country, carried it towards the House of Commons; but after he has told us the Country were not sparing in their Reflections, he passes over the former, to Stigmatize the present House under the Notion of Conspirators, Jacobites and the Burthen of the Nation; Words so foul, as well as false, that nothing but an impudent Legionist would have been the Author of, and scarce any thing on this side the Gallows is able to attone for.

T H E CONCLUSION.

H I S T O R Y.

H *Ad this Nation Listned to the Calls of their own Reason, and to the Voice of all Things, all this Confusion of Councils had been prevented; had the People of England chosen Men of Honesty and of Peaceable Principles, Men of Candour, disingaged from Interest and Design, that had nothing before them but the Benefit of their Country, the Safety of Religion, and the Interest of Europe, all this had been avoided; they would never have Imprison'd five honest Gentlemen, for coming to them with the Sence of their Country in a peaceable Petition: They would never had the occasion to repent of their refusing to hearken to the Voice of the People: But it is too late to look back, the Nation has had the Misfortune to choose them, and our Peace, and Liberty, and the Protestant Interest in Europe is too much in their Hands.*

A N I M A D V E R S I O N.

Had the Gentlemen-Petitioners and the Seditious Party that put them upon these Extravagancies, but consulted their own Reasons, the Maxims of Religion, and studied to be Quiet and do their own Business, disingaging them-

themselves from Factious Parties and Malecontented Criminals, the Nation had never heard of a *Kentish Petition*, nor of a Plot laid to put the People of England out of Love with Parliaments, nor to Ruin the best Constitution in the World, to set up a new Model of Government bottom'd in Anarchy and Confusion ; for let Mens Pretences be never so plausible, and their Arguments painted with the smoothest and finest Colours, yet this great Truth must be allowed, That no Man can attempt any thing against *Parliaments*, that toucheth the Justice of their Proceedings, or their Powers and Priviledges, but it must be with a Design to Ruin them *First*, and afterwards to subjugate the Nation under the Power of the Sword, or a Prevailing Faction. Whilst Men are Men there will be Failings every-where ; but to aggravate Faults out of Interest, or upon Supposition, is the part of a Wicked Man, and to charge Faults where none are committed, is the Properties of the *Worst* of Men, or rather Devils. All Authority, especially the Legislative, are in their kind the Eyes of the Nation, and therefore must be touch'd with a Soft Hand ; they are the Nation's Hands, and therefore must be strengthen'd by all our United Endeavours, and not Weaken'd by *False and Seditious Clamours*, which are the repeated Designs of the *Kentish Historian* and the Party he pleads for, and 'tis happy for *England*, that our Peace and Liberty and the Protestant Interest in *Europe* is no more in their Hands, but in our Representatives in Parliament, where we are safe and our Rights are secur'd.

Hist.] *All the Advice I can pretend to give my Fellow-Slaves and Country-men is, That they would not be backward to let the Gentlemen know, that the Nation is sensible they are not doing their Duty ; and withal, that to impose upon the Rights and Liberties of the English Nation, has*
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always been fatal to the Persons of those who have attempted it, and their Examples stand as Buoy and Marks to warn Posterity of the hidden Dangers which others have fallen into. It has been fatal to Favourites, to Judges, to Lords, and to Kings, and will certainly be so even to Parliaments, if they descend to Abuse the People they represent.

Animadv.] How grossly have I been mistaken all this while, in treating my Spark under the Title of an Author, a Historian, and a Gentleman, when by his own Confession he is a *Slave*, upon my Word and Honour, a *Meer Slave*; the most hated Name in *England*, and that the meanest true born English-man would lose his Dearest Blood rather than be made or thought one. A *Slave* is an Abject to himself, and the Contempt of all the World. A *Slave*! why the Name contains heavier Curses than can be pronounc'd by Bell, Book, or Candle. A *Slave* to talk of Rights and Liberties, renders his Discourse as preposterous as for a *Jew* to plead for Christianity, a *Prostitute* to talk of Chastity, or a *Usurer* to talk of Heaven; but to hear a *Slave* Rail against the *Parliament* is no Wonder at all, because he may live in hopes by embroiling the Nation to procure his Liberty: But as *England* is too Free an Air for a *Slave* to breathe in, so, 'tis to be hoped, they have more *Sence* than to credit the Scandalous Suggestions of a *Slave* to a *Factions Party*.

Hist.] The Imprisoning these five Gentlemen had neither Reason, Law, Pretence, or Policy in it.

Animadv.] Not so fast, Mr. *Slave*, you boast of a Victory before an Encounter; for the Imprisoning these five Gentlemen had Reason in it, because the House of *Commons* did it. It was *Legal*, because they had Offended;

fended; there was *Pretence*, because there are *Precedents* for it; and *Policy*, because it was *Preventative* of future Mischiefs.

Hist.] *It had no Law in it, because they had no legal Power to commit any but their own Members.*

Animadv.] A continued Succession of Right in the House of Commons to commit Offenders, tho' not Members of that House, is *Law*, tho' that *Law* is not committed to Writing, for *Precedents* in the same kind are sufficient to justify future Proceedings, and is only counted a Usurpation by those that are Ignorant of the Law, and the Proceedings of the House of Commons; for I find that above 149 Years ago, in the 4th of E. 6. *Journ. Dom. Com.* that *Criketost*, for confederating in the Escape of one *Floud*, was committed to the Tower, by the House of Commons, and afterwards discharg'd, paying his Fees. There is also a Precedent in Queen *Elizabeth's* Reign of a Gentleman-Usher being committed for a Contempt. And in *Journ. Dom. Com.* 1 *Jac.* 1. a Yeoman of the King's Guards, by Name *Bryan Tash*, was taken into Custody by the *Serjeant* at Arms, for keeping *Sir Herbert Croft* out of the House of Lords; and being brought to the Bar, upon his Submission and Confession, Mr. Speaker pronounc'd his Pardon, paying the ordinary Fees to the *Clark* and *Serjeant*, *Journ. Dom. Com.* 18 *Jac.* 1. *Sir Francis Mitchel*, a Lawyer, was committed Prisoner to the Tower, for procuring a Patent concerning the Forfeiture of Recognicances. After which Commitment the Commons impeach'd him. In 20 *Jac.* 1. *Dr. Harris*, Minister of *Belbingley*, who had misbehaved himself, by Preaching and otherwise, with respect to Election of Members of Parliament there, was brought to the House of Commons as a Delinquent,

linquent, and kneeling, begg'd Pardon; but was sentenc'd by Mr. Speaker also, to Confess his Fault in the Pulpit of his Parish-Church in the Country. Not to enumerate many other Precedents that are at hand, I will recite but one Precedent more, and that purely by way of Caution to our *Kentish* Historian and the rest of his Party: *Journ. Dom. Com. 4 Car. 1.* On the 26th of January, a Petition was preferr'd against one *Lewis*, who had said about the 25th of *December*, *The Devil take the Parliament*; which was avowed by two Witnesses: *And, altho' it was spoken out of Parliament, yet it was Resolved to be an Offence to the Parliament*, and it was Order'd he should be sent for into Custody. *Qui ante non Caveat post dolebit.*

Hist.] *The not proceeding against them afterward, shew'd they were either asham'd or afraid; had they been in the Right, there could be no reason to fear; and if they were in the Wrong, they had all the reason in the World to be asham'd.*

Animad.] What a Whimsical, Illogical Dilemma has our Suckling-Historian advanc'd for the Service of his Party, that every Wrangling *Fresh-man* would blush to be the Author of. Does he not know, that when the *Premises* are false, the *Conclusion* is in the same Predicament? The Representatives of All the People of *England* *Afraid!* Of Who, I beseech him? *Asham'd!* Of What, Goodman *Jack Straw*? Committing five *Libellers!* Away, *Trifler*, down upon thy *Marrow-bones*, and, in behalf of the Petitioners, give thy humblest Thanks to a Merciful House of Commons, that, instead of prosecuting the Matter further, was contented their Punishment should end in a short Confinement.

Hist.]

Hist.] To commit five Gentlemen to Custody, for Petitioning them to do what they really knew they ought to have done, was the most preposterous thing in Nature. To punish for humbly Petitioning! 'Tis Nonsense in it self. God himself permits the Meanest and the most Despicable of his Creatures to re-mind him, as we may say, of their Wants, and Petition for his Aid: The most contemptible Beggar is permitted to be importunate for Relief, and tho' the Law is against it, we are not affronted at it. But to Resent the Representation of their Country, and Imprison Gentlemen, who at the Request of the Free-holders of a County, came under the express Protection of an Act of Parliament to deliver a Petition! 'Twas the most ridiculous inconsistent Action that ever Parliament was guilty of; and with Submission, I think the best Action the same House can do, at their next Meeting, is to Vote, That it shall be raz'd out of their Journals, and never be made a Precedent for time to come, upon which Condition and no other the Nation ought to forgive it them.

Animad.] The Best Things corrupted become the Worst; the Gentlemen were not committed for Petitioning, but for Libelling the Parliament; for Petitions are daily received by the House, and the Grievances complain'd of redress'd; but not to distinguish between a Modest Petition, and a Scandalous, Insolent and Seditious one, was to turn the World upside down, and render all Authority as contemptible, as the Original Promoters of that Petition are. 'Tis true, God Almighty allows the meanest of his Creatures to re-mind him of their Wants; but when they turn their Orisons into Sins, he tells them their Prayers are an Abomination to him, his Soul abhors them, and his Judgments shall seize the Offenders to their utter Confusion. 'Tis also true, that Nec-

dy Beggars are allowed to be Importunate, their Necessities plead their Excuse; but *Vagrants* and *Sturdy Beggars* are punishable by Law; for tho' they beg in Publick, they are prepar'd to rob you or cut your Throat when they can find an Opportunity to do it privately and undetected. Again, What apparent Cause was there for a *Kentish* Petition? How came those Gentlemen quicker sighted than the Grand-Jury and Justices of the Peace in the Counties of *Sussex*, *Essex*, *Suffolk*, *Devonshire* and *Cornwal*, that are all as obnoxious to the same Danger. Does not *Tenderden-Church* still stand in *Tenderden-Church-Yard*; are not the *Owlers* and *Smuglers* more numerous now than ever? What would they have a Calf with a white Face, that they make all this Clamour, Noise and Buffle? Why they have told you, *they would have a War and Swinging Taxes*, that they might lick their Fingers at the Charge of the whole Kingdom; for between *France* and *Kent* there is always a right Understanding, because from hence, I mean *Kent*, they have Intelligence of all our Affairs; from hence are the King's Councils betray'd, from hence is our Wool transported, our Poor starv'd, and our Woollen-Manufacture brought to nothing. And, with Submission, I think one of the best Things the Parliament can do at their next Session is to Suppress them, and Lower their Pride by preventing their Treachery.

[Hist.] *The Act of the 13th of Charles the Second, to assert the Right of the Subjects Petitioning, is a sufficient Authority for one to quote, and those that pretend to call this an Illegal Act, must first trample down the Authority of that Act of Parliament. Let this Act justify me, in saying, that to imprison English-men for Petitioning, is illegal and a dishonour to English-Parliaments. Legion, Article the*

Animadv.]

Animad.] Our Historian fights with his own Shadow, and sets up a Man of Straw, that he may throw him down again with greater Ease. He never speaks to the *Merits* of the Cause, or the Controversy under Debate, but runs away with a false Notion, to deceive the unwary Reader; for the Dispute is not about the *Right of Petitioning*, but whither under that Pretence, Men may Affront, Traduce and Scandalize all the Commons of *England* in the Persons of their legal Representatives, and when he can find an *Act of Parliament*, that warrants Men to be sawcy, impertinent, and scandalous, he has done his Work; but till then, all his haranguing about the Right of Petitioning is but insignificant Trash, a Heap of Words to no Purpose. 'Twas not the Petition *Quatenus Petition*, that was offensive to the House, but it was the *Contents of the Petition*, that they shew'd their Resentment at; and all their *Lègion-Writers* are so conscious, that the Contents of it cannot be defended, that they never touch at it. It smells so rankly of *Sédition*, that they dare not come within the Scent of it. So that all our Authors ratling about the *Right of Petitioning*, is but a Repetition of the Magical Combat in *Apuleus*, where the Man thinking he had fought all Night with his Adversary, in the Morning found himself only engaged with a few empty Bladders.

Mutato Nomine de te, - Fabula narratur.

Hist.] But say the *Lame Excusers* of this excentrick Motion of the House, this was a factious Thing, contrived by a few private, insignificant People of no Value, and the Matter of it is sawcy and impertinent.

Animad.]

Animad] Twittle twattle, give the Goose more Hay. How can the House be said to move *Excentrically*, when they keep their proper Orb, and follow *Precedents*; and he will e'er long be sick of his Astronomical Term of Art; when he finds them in the *Meridian* of their Glory, and his Party *Combust* or in their *Retrogradation*. Were the Gentlemen that defended the Proceedings of the House of Commons *Lame Excusers*? Then I wonder the factious Party did not fall upon them, for they are excellent at taking all Advantages; but alas they were *blind* and could not find their Antagonists, or else certainly they would have mauld the roguish Cripples, for daring to encounter two hundred thousand Justices of Peace, Grand-Jury-men and Free-holders, besides a Reinforcement of as many *Owlers* and *Snauglers*. Again, If the *Vindicators* of the House of Commons advanc'd nothing but *Lame Excuses*, why has not the Faction answered them? Especially, since one of the *Cripples* has thrown down his Glove, and boldly challeng'd the whole Party; but they knew he was able to prove them *an insignificant People and of no Value by naming them*, and therefore the Incendiaries were resolved to sleep behind the Curtain, in Whole Skins and unpinckt Doublets. The Sawciness of the Petition will fall under another Paragraph.

Hist.] *First, Had it been a Petition of the meanest and most inconsiderable Person in England, and that single by himself, provided he were a Free-holder of England, he had a legal Right to speak his Mind; for that same Reason from whence the Commons in Parliament claim a freedom of Speech, gives every Commoner a Freedom to speak to the House, since every Free-holder has an equal Concern in their Debates, and equal Power in deputing them to sit there. But because this Right unlimited, might be tumultuous*

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tuons and uneasy, therefore the Method how he shall do it is circumscribed for Decency-sake, that it should be done by Petition. And that Petition shall be presented so and so, and by such a number and no more : But that it should not be Lawful to Petition, no Tribunal, no Court, no Collective, or Representative-body of Men in the World ever refus'd it ; nay the Inquisition of Spain does not forbid it, the Divan of the Turks allows it, and I believe if Satan himself kept his Court in publick, he would not prohibit it.

Animad.] Our Kentish-Dumpling surely takes delight in fighting with himself, for I know no Adversary he has about the Right of Petitioning ; for it is enacted as a standing Law, that the Subject has the Right of Petitioning ; but not of Affronting and Reproaching, which is the Case of the Kentish Petitioners ; and therefore his Raking into Heaven and Hell, and bringing in God and the Devil, the Spanish Inquisition and the Turkish Divan, to prove a Right that was never deny'd him, is like labouring at the Oar when the Gally rides at Anchor : But to reach his Case, I remember a Parrallel Instance, in a Cause tried before the famous Grand Vizier Cuperlee at Constantinople, where a Defendant telling him he desir'd nothing from him but Justice, it was lookt upon as an Affront to the Court, and it cost the Defendant an Inch of his Tongue to compound for that but supposed Reflection. As for the Devil's Court, in favour of the Kentish Petition, I much question the Truth of his Assertion, because our Author has not produc'd upon Oath a True Copy from his Infernal Journal.

Hist.] But besides this, the Fact is not true : As for its being contrived by a few People, let the impartial Relation here given, answer that ridiculous Untath, unless you will account the County of Kent a few, for certainly eleven Parts of

twelve in the whole County, and now in the whole Kingdom, approve of it.

Animad.] Here our Author exactly copies Double's Advice to *Whig-love* and supplies the want of Truth with Face and Fore-head, for eleven Parts of twelve in the whole County of *Kent*, never heard of the Petition, till the Votes of Parliament published it through the County, and the whole Kingdom; but what signifies Numbers if they had them to boast of: 'Tis the Right of the Thing, and the Justice of the Cause, that adds Value to Mens Pretences; for if you go to Numbers the worst Men will carry it; and as to his Insinuation, that Time has added to their Party, tho' I know his Suggestion to be as false, as his Pretences to *Impartiality*, yet in respect of the Validity or Invalidity of the Petition, I must answer him with that celebrated Maxim, *Quod Initio non valet, tractu Temporis non convalescit*. Time adds no Strength to a Rotten Foundation.

Hist.] Nor has the Reproach upon the Persons representing it, more of Truth, unless Gentlemen of ancient and illustrious Families, whose Ancestors have been known for several Ages to be Men of Honour and Estates, allied to several of the Nobility, and now known and valued by the whole County, both for their considerable Fortunes, as well as personal Merit, unless, I say, such Men are to be accounted private and inconsiderable, the Charge cannot be true: To such I shall only say, that the Ancestors of these Gentlemen were Members of Ancient Parliaments, and of such Parliaments as would have been asham'd of committing such an absurdity, as to imprison the Free-holders of England for a peaceable Petition.

Animad.] Once again, I am forc'd to tell my Author, that the Gentlemen were not imprison'd for presenting a
pea-

peaceable Petition, but because they presented a Libellous and a *Warlike* Petition, which set the House of Commons at *Defiance*, and sinisterly propos'd raising Forces, before King, Lords, or Commons, thought there was any Occasion for them. As to the Qualities, Estates, and Merits of these five Gentlemen, I shall say nothing to their Disparagement, nor Copy after the *Kentish-Historian*, who has vilely abused five hundred Men of superior, at least of equal Quality, besides the honourable Addition of being *Representatives of the whole Kingdom*. However our Author's Panegyrick may enhance, not abate their Offence, for great and good Men may be impos'd upon, and lead into Errors by the Artifices of ill Men, who lie in wait to Deceive.

Hist.] *As to the Matter of the Petition, and which some People say was a Banter, the turning their Loyal Addresses into Bills of Supplies, the Gentlemen ought to have had the Liberty to explain themselves, which if they had done, I am of the Opinion that it would have been to this Purpose, that they thought it was proper the House should speedily supply the King so with Money, as that he might be enabled to defend our Protestant Neighbours, from the Encroachments of France, and not to lose their Time in addressing the King in Matters of less moment.*

Animad.] To call the *Kentish-Petition* a *Banter*, is too soft a Term, after the House of Commons have voted it *scandalous*; but that is so light a Scape among his gross Ones, tho' it would admit of a Return, I shall pass it over, and proceed to his suppositious Justification of the Contents of the Petition, wherein he plays the *Tinker*, and in endeavouring to stop one Leak makes two or three greater, *viz.* in saying, *They thought it was proper*, which was a great Presumption, for they were not competent Judges;
the

the great Affairs of *Europe*, lay at that time before the two Houses, they were deliberating upon the Dangers, and the Ways and Means to prevent them; both Houses unanimously agreed in the *Causes* and *Cures* of impending Mischiefs; the King was pleas'd with their Proceedings, and gave them Thanks, for their Care of his Person and the Publick; and while Things ran so smoothly in their proper Channels, there was no room left for the Interposition of the Kentish Councils, by Hands of a Grand-Jury, unless they had a mind to shew themselves *Wiser, and thought they saw further into the Affairs of Europe, than the King's Majesty, and his great Council in Parliament.* Under these or worse Thoughts, the *Middlestone* Grand-Jury proceed to *Direct the House of Commons,* and tacitely accuse them with *Neglect in not supplying the King so with Money, as that he might be able to defend our Protestant Neighbours from the Encroachments of France;* tho' they knew the House had voted the King a Supply, before they Petition'd. And lastly, insinuated to the People of *England*, that the House of Commons *wasted their Time in Matters of less Moment, and neglected the great Concerns of the Kingdom;* and by this Means, instead of excusing the Petitioners, the Historian has justified the Proceedings of the House against them; for if you impartially review the three last mentioned Particulars, you will find the first is *Insolent*, the second is *Scandalous*, and the third is *Seditious*.

Hist.] I shall conclude with this short Animadversion by Way of Remark, and let all Men judge of the Justness of the Observation, viz. That as this was the first time that ever the English Nation Petition'd to be Taxed: So this was the first Parliament that ever Addressed the King to take care of himself, and defend himself against his People.

Animad.]

Animad.] The Kentish-Historian can as little forbear *Romancing* as *Living*, 'tis a Disease that haunts that Party all their Lives, and is never cured but by wrapping them up in *Flannel*. In his Conclusive Observation, that he makes Proclamation to all Mankind to judge of the *Justness* of, he initiates it with one Palpable Untruth, and concludes it with another; for the Kentish - Petition was not the Petition of the *English-Nation*, but of a few giddy self-conceited People in a Corner of the Kingdom, who it seems are very forward to have Taxes raised, but are always very backward in paying them. His next Observation is altogether as false; for it has been the constant Practice of all Parliaments that ever we read of, to *Address* the King in all times of *Danger*, either apparent or suspected, to take Care of his *Royal Person*, against the wicked Designs of his Malcontented People. Both Houses of Parliament did it when the *Assassination-Plot* was discovered; and all *Wise Governments* take Care to prevent Mischiefs in *Embryo*, as well as to crush them when they are grown to Maturity. I told you, in Answer to his Preface, that his taking so much Pains to assert the Truth of his Narrative, was a Sign he intended to impose upon the World; and, since he is a Dealer in such Commodities, I will give him good Advice, and wish him a good *Mart* to vend them in, and that in his next Adventure he may be a greater Gainer than he has been by this Bargain. *Frangere Miser Calamos, vigilataque Prælia Dele.*

Your wretched Scribbling now for Shame give o're,
And with French Flies don't vex the Nations fore.

A D D E N D A.

Some Book-learn'd Fools pretend to find a Flaw,
 In our late Senate Votes for want of Law,
 And Insolently say the Men of *Kent*
 Were Rudely handled by the Parliament.
 Knowledge of things would teach them every Hour,
That Law is but an Heathen Word for Power.
 Might, Right, Force, Justice, Equitie,
 Are terms Synonimous, and must agree;
 For who shall e'er the Argument confute,
Where Power prevails, and no Man dare dispute.

Nature has left this Tincture in the Blood,
 That all Men wou'd be Tyrants if they cou'd,
 Not Kings alone, not Ecclesiastick pride,
 But *Parliaments*, and all Mankind beside.
 All Men, like *Phaeton*, would Command the Reins,
 'Tis only want of Power that restrains.
 Then why should we think strange the Parliament
 The Peoples late Petitions shou'd resent:
'Tis fatal to Tyrannick Power, when they
Who shou'd be Ruin'd, grumble to obey:
 And Tyrants never can compleat their Reign,
 So long as Injur'd Subjects dare complain;
 If they do not *their first Address* withstand,
 What now they supplicate, they'l soon command,

By

By first suppressing early Discontent,
 They aim'd the Consequences to prevent,
 For well they knew that shou'd the Nation try,
To ask once more, they durst not twice deny,

England has this one Fate peculiar to her,
 Never to want a Party to undo her,
 The Court, the Kings, the Church, the Parliaments,
 Alternat'ly pursue the same Intent,
 Under the specious term of Liberty,
 The passive Injur'd People to betray :
 And it has always been the Peoples Fate,
 To see their own Mistakes when 'twas too late,
 Senceless of Danger, sleepy and secure,
 Till their Distempers grew too strong to cure,
 Till they're embrac'd by the approaching Grave,
 And none but *Jove* and Miracles can save.

In vain bold *Hero's* venture to redeem
 A People willinger to sink than swim :
 If there's a *Brutus* in the Nation found,
 That dares *Patritian Usurpation* wound,
 He's sure to find an Ignominious Grave,
And perish by the People he would save.

Such are by Vertue signaliz'd in vain,
 We'll own the Merit, but abuse the Men.
Marius sav'd *Rome*, and was by *Rome* despis'd ;
 And many a *Russell* we have sacrific'd.
 Then who for *English* Freedom would appear,
 Where Lives of *Patriots* are never dear,
 And Streams of Generous Blood flow unregarded
 there. }

Posterity.

Posterity will be asham'd to own
 The Actions we their Ancestors have done,
 When they for Ancient Precedents enquire,
 And to the Journals of this Age retire,
 To see one Tyrant banish'd from his Home,
To see Five Hundred Traytors in his Room.
 They'l Blush to find the Head beneath the Tail,
 And representing, Treachery prevail :
 They'l be amaz'd to see there was *but Five*,
 Whose Courage could their Liberty survive,
 While we that durst Illegal Power dethrone,
 Should basely be Enslav'd by Tyrants of our own.

Having thus tired my Reader with a Dull, Irksom,
 Scandalous Satyr, and being unwilling to leave him in
 a Melancholy Humour, I have made bold with the In-
 genious Author of the following Advice, to Insert his
 Poem in Answer to the former ; for which I will be in-
 debted to him a Bottle at our next Meeting.

ADVICE

ADVICE

TO THE

Kentish Long-Tails,

BY

The Wise-men of *Gotham*.

In Answer

To their late Sawcy PETITION
to the PARLIAMENT.

WE, the Long Heads of *Gotham*, o're our merry
To the Long-Tails of *Kent*, by these Presents send
[Cups meeting,
[Greeting:

Grand Jury,
Whereas, we're inform'd, that your *Maidstone* }
A most monstrous Petition has Penn'd in a Fury; }
We're strangely surpriz'd at the News we'll assure ye. }
O For,

For, unless both our Reading and Memory fails,
 Old *Kent* has been Fam'd, not for *Heads*, but for *Tails*.
 Not to make on your Intellects any Reflection,
 The *Senate* needs none of your *Kentish* Direction,
 To prevent Foreign Insults, and Home Insurrection.
 Without your Intruding and sage Interposing,
 And thrusting where no Body calls you, your Nose in,
 Our *Commons* will steer the Great Boat of themselves,
 And save it from dashing on Rocks or on Shelves :
 They'll provide for our *Tarrs*, and settle the Nation :
 Then let each Private Man be content in his Station.

We therefore advise you to lead sober Lives,
 To look after your Orchards, and comfort your Wives.
 To Gibbets and Gallows your Qwlers advance,
 That, that's the sure way to Mortifie *France* :
 For *Monsieur* our Nation will always be Gulling,
 While you take such care to supply him with Woollen.
 And if your Allegiance to *Cesar's* so great,
 All Smugling and stealing of Customs defeat,
 Or else all your Loyalty's nought but a Cheat.
 Above all, let each *Long-Tail* his Talent employ,
 On his Spouse's soft Anvil to get such a Boy
 As will equal in Vigour the fam'd *William Joy*.

[Roast,
 Then in Peace you may eat both your Boil'd and your
 And the *French* will be Damn'd e'er they'll Land on your

Signed by the Mayor, Aldermen, and the
 Common-Council; all the Inhabitants,
 Men, Women, and Children, that
 could make their Marks, at the Quarter-
 Sessions holden at Gotham, in Con-
 tary Essex, the 12th of May.

F I N I S .

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